



LØN OG INDTÆGTER  
LÖHNE UND EINKOMMEN  
WAGES AND INCOMES  
SALAIRES ET REVENUS  
SALARI E REDDITI  
LONEN EN INKOMENS

EKSPRESINFORMATION  
SCHNELLBERICHT  
RAPID INFORMATION  
NOTE RAPIDE  
NOTA RAPIDA  
SPOEDBERICHT

20.2.1979

# LABOUR COSTS IN INDUSTRY

1975 - 1977

Since 1966, a survey of labour costs in industry has been carried out in the Member States every three years. While awaiting the results of the 1978 survey which is currently in progress, the Statistical Office of the European Communities, in collaboration with national statistical institutes, has updated the results of the 1975 survey for the years 1976 and 1977.

TAB. 1

HOURLY LABOUR COSTS 1975 - 1977 <sup>\*)</sup>

All manufacturing industries

Manual + non manual workers

	D	F	I	N	B	L	UK	DK
National currencies								
	DM	FF	LIT	HFL	BFR	LFR	UKL	DKR
1975	17,54	24,95	3450	20,24	268	270	1,66	40,90
1976	18,90	28,90	4280	22,60	301	313	1,91	45,20
1977	20,30	32,80	:	23,80	332	344	2,12	49,00
IV 1977	20,20	31,90	:	23,70	327	342	:	48,10
X 1977	20,50	33,70	:	24,60	337	346	2,20	49,90
EUA <sup>**)</sup>								
1975	5,75	4,69	4,26	6,46	5,89	5,93	2,95	5,74
1976	6,70	5,40	4,60	7,60	7,00	7,20	3,10	6,70
1977	7,70	5,90	:	8,50	8,10	8,40	3,20	7,20
IV 1977	7,60	5,70	:	8,50	8,00	8,40	:	7,20
X 1977	7,80	6,00	:	8,80	8,20	8,50	3,40	7,10

<sup>\*)</sup> Data for Ireland are not available

<sup>\*\*)</sup> See explanatory note p. 3



The development of hourly costs in all manufacturing industries since 1975 given in Table 1 is summarized below.

Indices of the development of hourly labour costs (1975=100)

OCTOBER 1977

	D	F	I *	N	B	L	UK	DK
A. In national currency	116,9	135,1	124,1	121,5	125,7	128,1	132,5	122,0
B. In EUA **	135,7	127,9	108,0	136,2	139,2	143,3	115,3	123,7
C. Value of national currency in relation to the EUA	116,0	94,9	85,4	111,5	111,4	111,4	85,9	100,9

\* October 1976

\*\* See explanatory note on p. 3

Between 1975 and October 1977 labour costs expressed in national currency increased by between 17% in the F.R. of Germany and 35% in France (in Italy there was a rise of 24% in one year). The increase in the remaining five countries exceeded 20%. As can be seen from table 1, an almost general slackening in the rate of increase took place in 1977.

If, on the other hand, one examines the rise in hourly costs expressed in European units of account, that is to say in terms of competitiveness on external markets, the position of certain countries is drastically changed. It can be seen that the competitive position of countries with a "strong" currency deteriorates compared to that of other countries : this is especially true for the F.R. of Germany and the Benelux countries. According to this analysis based on EUA data, the disparities between countries with "high" costs (F.R. of Germany, the Benelux countries and Denmark) and those with "average" costs (France and Italy) or "low" costs (United Kingdom) increased still further in 1977.



The level of hourly costs by industry in each country since 1975 is given in table 2 below. The costs vary from a higher level in mining and energy to a lower level in industries producing consumer goods. The structure of employment in the different industries (especially female and non-manual labour) must, of course, be taken into account to permit a proper understanding of these differences. However, it is interesting to note that in 1977 the gap which existed in 1975 between industries having the highest and the lowest labour costs widened in most countries.

Explanatory note

The hourly labour cost is arrived at by dividing the total labour cost (expenditure on manual and non-manual workers) by the total number of hours worked by manual workers and the customary or usual number of hours worked by non-manual workers.

The labour costs, expressed in national currencies, have been converted into European units of account (EUA) solely to facilitate comparison in terms of international competitiveness. For a more general comparison of the relative labour costs in different countries, the purchasing power parities of these costs would also have to be considered.

For the rates used for conversion into EUA see "EURO-STATISTICS", table 151.



Table 2

HOURLY LABOUR COSTS IN INDUSTRY 1975 - 1977

Manual + non manual workers

in national currency

N A C E			BR Deutsch- land	France	Italia	Neder- land	Belgique België	Luxem- bourg	United Kingdom	Danmark
			DM	FF	LIT	HFL	BFR	LFR	UKL	DKR
11	Extraction and briquetting of solid fuels	1975	24,72 <sup>1)</sup>	34,34	5220	-	374	-	2,63	-
		1976	26,60 <sup>1)</sup>	:	:	-	391	-	:	-
		1977	28,00 <sup>1)</sup>	:	:	-	425	-	:	-
12	Coke ovens	1975	:	:	4684	-	317	-	2,29	-
		1976	:	:	5820	-	349	-	:	-
		1977	:	:	:	-	381	-	:	-
13	Extraction of petroleum and natural gas	1975	23,06	53,58	5221	29,80	-	-	:	-
		1976	24,90	62,40	6330	:	-	-	:	-
		1977	26,30	71,60	:	:	-	-	:	-
14	Mineral oil refining	1975	25,50	44,85	5223	28,43	489	-	2,67	47,67
		1976	27,40	51,60	6760	30,80	555	-	3,04	51,70
		1977	29,30	59,20	:	33,10	615	-	3,42	58,40
	Extraction and preparation of metalliferous ores	1975	21,14	38,00	4582	-	-	337	:	-
		1976	22,50	45,30	5280	-	-	388	:	-
		1977	24,00	49,80	:	-	-	430	:	-

1) N.A.C.E. 11 + 12





Table 2 (continued)

in national currency

N A C E			BR Deutsch- land	France	Italia	Neder- land	Belgique België	Luxem- bourg	United Kingdom	Danmark
			DM	FF	LIT	HFL	BFR	LFR	UKL	DKR
22	Production and preliminary processing of metals	1975	19,83	29,33	4012	24,07	336	307	1,97	44,66
		1976	21,40	34,40	5080	27,60	376	353	2,24	49,00
		1977	22,80	38,80	:	28,80	413	393	2,49	53,20
23	Extraction of minerals other than metalliferous	1975	15,37	26,33	4056	22,58	279	204	:	37,42
		1976	16,50	31,10	4430	:	321	229	:	40,30
		1977	17,50	35,40	:	:	358	241	:	47,20
24	Manufacture of non-metallic mineral products	1975	16,42	23,71	3108	19,13	265	206	1,59	40,65
		1976	17,60	27,20	3850	21,30	303	242	1,85	45,80
		1977	18,80	30,90	:	22,40	340	262	2,03	50,40
25	Chemical industry	1975	20,78	32,72	4169	24,64	331	212	1,97	46,23
		1976	22,40	36,80	5200	27,70	369	245	2,30	50,40
		1977	24,10	41,60	:	29,40	415	269	2,54	55,60
26	Man-made fibres industry	1975	19,58	33,51	4037	:	321	272	2,02	-
		1976	21,40	37,40	5390	:	365	336	2,31	-
		1977	23,20	:	:	:	400	351	2,53	-
31	Manufacture of metal articles	1975	17,13	23,06	3376	18,79	266	208	1,60	38,75
		1976	18,40	27,00	4190	20,60	295	244	1,86	43,20
		1977	19,80	30,60	:	21,70	327	267	2,08	46,30
32	Mechanical engineering	1975	18,82	25,77	3567	19,55	283	259	1,71	42,26*
		1976	20,20	30,20	4540	21,80	315	295	1,96	47,80
		1977	21,80	34,30	:	22,70	345	323	2,19	51,40

\* Y compris N.A.C.E. 33



Table 2 (continued)

in national currency

N A C E			BR Deutsch- land	France	Italia	Neder- land	Belgique België	Luxem- bourg	United Kingdom	Danmark
			DM	FF	LIT	HFL	BFR	LFR	UKL	DKR
33	Manufacture of office machinery and data process- ing machinery	1975	23,84	43,83	4318	23,24	237	-	2,06	38,90
		1976	26,30	49,60	5670	25,60	:	-	2,48	:
		1977	28,30	54,50	:	27,20	:	-	2,79	:
34	Electrical engineering	1975	18,24	25,31	3589	22,91	285	216	1,59	40,45
		1976	19,60	29,50	4470	25,40	322	272	1,85	44,60
		1977	21,20	33,50	:	26,90	354	299	2,06	48,40
35	Manufacture of motor vehicles and of motor vehicle parts and accessories	1975	21,04	26,37	3739	20,40	300	198	1,92	38,49
		1976	22,60	30,30	4710	22,70	337	219	2,20	41,40
		1977	24,40	35,10	:	23,70	366	236	2,40	45,20
36	Manufacture of other means of transport	1975	19,41	29,22	3749	20,05	311	-	1,94	44,36
		1976	20,75	34,40	4730	22,10	341	-	2,22	49,20
		1977	22,40	39,60	:	22,80	371	-	2,47	53,30
37	Instrument engineering	1975	16,39	23,47	3282	19,52	265	-	1,56	39,64
		1976	17,60	27,60	4130	22,30	292	-	1,82	44,00
		1977	19,00	31,80	:	23,80	328	-	2,03	48,60
41	Food, drink and tobacco industry	1975	15,06	22,53	3590	18,94	248	189	1,49	42,43
42		1976	16,20	26,00	4300	21,30	282	215	1,73	46,60
		1977	17,40	29,70	:	22,40	313	233	1,90	50,90
43	Textile industry	1975	13,73	19,08	2851	17,30	214	:	1,30	33,86
		1976	14,70	22,00	3530	18,90	238	:	1,52	38,50
		1977	15,60	24,90	:	20,30	260	:	1,65	41,30



Table 2 (continued)

in national currency

N A C E		BR Deutsch- land	France	Italia	Neder- land	Belgique België	Luxem- bourg	United Kingdom	Danmark
		DM	FF	LIT	HFL	BFR	LFR	UKL	DKR
44 Leather and leather goods industry	1975	12,15	17,72	2693	16,24	192	-	1,25	32,71
	1976	12,90	20,60	3400	17,90	220	-	1,43	35,00
	1977	13,90	23,70	:	19,20	246	-	1,58	39,00
45 Manufacture of clothing and footwear	1975	12,19	16,45	2424	13,89	170	120	1,10	30,11
	1976	13,00	19,00	3040	15,50	189	137	1,27	33,20
	1977	13,90	21,60	:	16,00	207	153	1,40	35,80
46 Timber and wooden furniture industries	1975	14,89	18,46	2661	16,47	221	175	1,50	34,04
	1976	16,10	21,80	3300	18,20	247	199	1,71	37,40
	1977	17,20	25,10	:	19,10	278	217	1,89	40,20
47 Manufacture of paper and paper products, printing and publishing	1975	16,69	29,17	4092	20,73	278	230	1,81	47,02
	1976	17,90	32,80	5010	23,00	311	:	2,10	54,10
	1977	19,40	36,60	:	24,60	341	:	2,32	57,90
48 Processing of rubber and plastics	1975	15,94	23,42	3702	18,55	259	273	1,54	37,77
	1976	17,20	27,10	4300	21,10	288	324	1,79	42,80
	1977	18,30	30,70	:	22,00	320	356	1,98	46,50
49 Other manufactur- ing industries	1975	14,78	20,01	2846	16,83	191	:	1,33	36,81
	1976	15,90	23,30	3540	18,70	220	:	1,54	39,90
	1977	17,10	27,30	:	20,30	241	:	1,77	43,00
50 Building and civil engineering	1975	16,67	20,92	2876	19,98	275	188	1,66	:
	1976	17,70	24,30	4080	22,00	313	216	1,91	:
	1977	18,70	27,90	:	23,20	351	237	2,18	:



Table 2 (continued)

in national currency

N A C E			BR Deutsch- land	France	Italia	Neder- land	Belgique België	Luxem- bourg	United Kingdom	Danmark
			DM	FF	LIT	HFL	BFR	LFR	UKL	DKR
11, 13, 21, 23	Mining and quarrying	1975	22,60	33,56	4379	26,79	338	304	2,49	37,42
		1976	24,40	:	4860	:	359	346	:	:
		1977	25,70	:	:	:	392	381	:	:
12, 14, 15, 22, à	Manufacturing industries	1975	17,54	24,95	3450	20,24	268	270	1,66	40,90
		1976	18,90	28,90	4280	22,60	301	313	1,91	45,20
		1977	20,30	32,80	:	23,80	332	344	2,12	49,00
3, 4 à 5 (ex- cept 16+ 17)	All industries	1975	17,57	24,44	3400	20,21	272	256	1,69	:
		1976	18,80	28,50	4270	22,60	304	295	:	:
		1977	20,20	32,50	:	23,80	337	326	:	:

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